



## Early-Spring Netting Survey Summary Moose Lake, Sawyer County, 2009

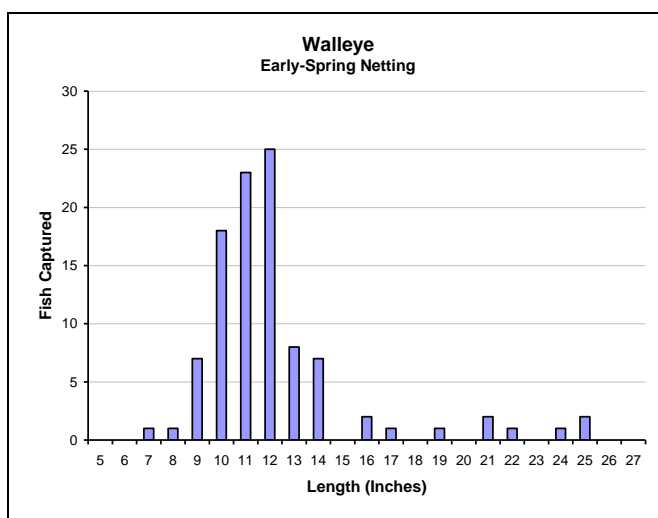
The Hayward DNR Fisheries Management Team conducted a fyke-net survey at Moose Lake during April 23-24, 2009 (scheduled every four years). The main purpose of this survey was to provide information on adult walleye, muskellunge, and yellow perch. We also obtained useful information about the status of black crappie. An electrofishing survey conducted by our team in early June documented the status of smallmouth bass and juvenile walleyes (separate summary).

Walleye



### Catch per Net (15 net-nights total)

Fish $\geq 10''$	6.1
Fish $\geq 15''$	0.7 (11%)
Fish $\geq 18''$	0.5 (8%)

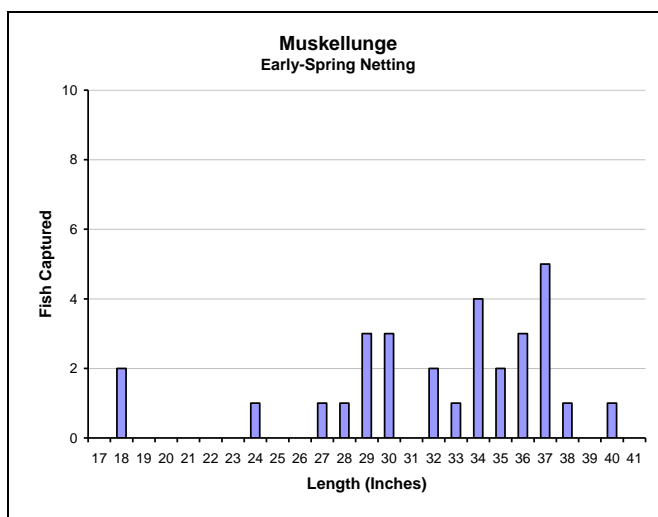


Muskellunge



### Catch per Net (15 net-nights total)

Fish $\geq 20''$	1.9
Fish $\geq 30''$	1.5 (79%)
Fish $\geq 42''$	0 (0%)

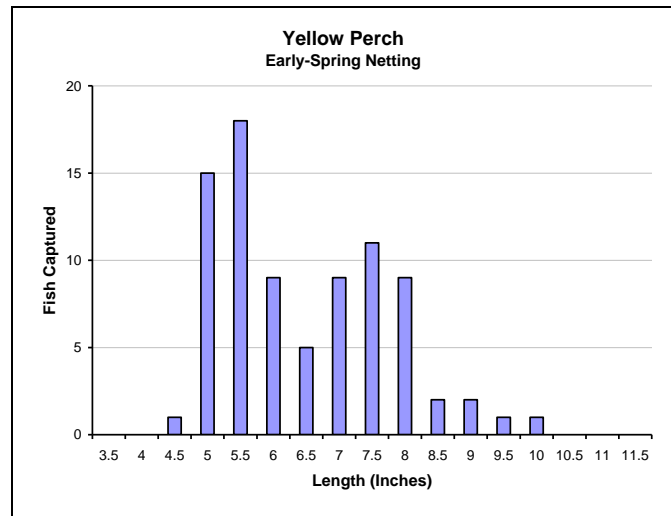


### Yellow Perch



#### Catch per Net (15 net-nights total)

Fish $\geq 5''$	5.5
Fish $\geq 8''$	1.0 (18%)
Fish $\geq 10''$	0.1 (1%)

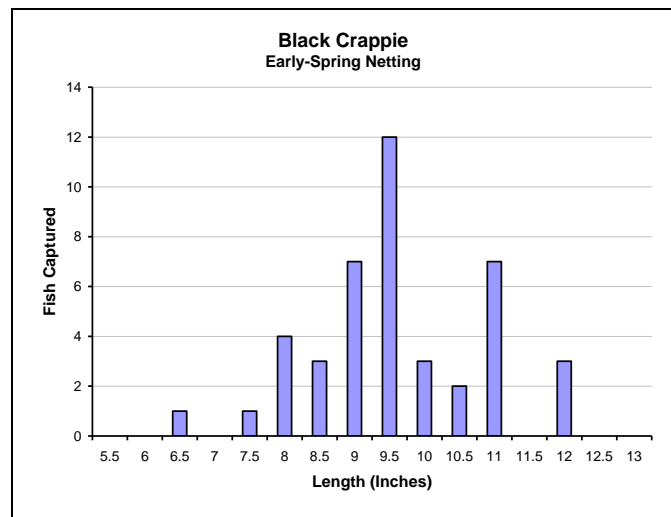


### Black Crappie



#### Catch per Net (15 net-nights total)

Fish $\geq 5''$	2.9
Fish $\geq 8''$	2.7 (95%)
Fish $\geq 10''$	1 (35%)



**Survey Conditions:** Moose Lake and its tributary streams were at abnormally low levels during this survey due to a multi-year drought. Normally many adult walleyes in Moose Lake migrate up the West Fork Chippewa River to spawn. But low flow kept many fish in the lake in 2009, allowing us to obtain a much better sample of the adult walleye population than usual.

**Survey Results:** Walleye and muskellunge are recruiting naturally (no stocking) at Moose Lake. Our capture rate of adult walleye was moderate (6.1 per net-night). Most were 10-12 inches long, reflecting slow growth rate and the tendency of Moose Lake anglers to harvest walleyes as soon as they reach 13-14 inches in length because there is no minimum length limit. Our muskellunge capture rate was nearly twice the statewide average (1.9 adults per net-night), reflecting high density and competition for prey that prevents most fish (especially males) from growing beyond 40 inches.

Capture rates of 5-inch and larger yellow perch (5.5 per net-night) and black crappie (2.9 per net-night) were relatively low, reflecting the impact of predation on young panfish by relatively abundant small walleye and mid-size muskellunge. The low proportion of yellow perch 8 inches and longer may be partially attributable to the tendency of muskellunge to select the largest perch available as prey. Black crappies are not usually consumed by muskellunge, so a third of the crappies we captured exceeded the angler-preferred length of 10 inches. Bluegills are present in Moose Lake as a result of past transfers from Island and Black Dan lakes, but numbers were so low that none were captured in our early-spring fyke nets.

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